

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

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## **SEN. CLARKE ENCOURAGES ALTERNATIVE FUNDING FOR HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

LANSING- State Sen. Hansen Clarke, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is encouraging the Michigan Legislature to consider alternative means of funding Michigan's libraries, museums and cultural programs. The Detroit Democrat said today that the future of many of our state's important educational and cultural programs is in doubt if a more reliable funding source is not found.

"The people of Michigan are proud to live in a state with strong academics and diverse, cultural programming," said Sen. Clarke. "These programs are critical investments in our future that pay for themselves many times over with a more productive and skilled workforce."

Sen. Clarke made his comments following the Michigan Senate's passage of the FY 05 History, Arts and Libraries budget. Amongst other things, next year's HAL budget eliminates all state funding for the Detroit Public Library.

"If we are to retain our state's competitive edge we need to make funding our libraries, museums and art programs a much higher priority," said Sen. Clarke. "We can't stand by and watch the funding for these programs get raided every year by those who simply can't grasp the importance of investing in our own future."

Sen. Clarke invited his Senate colleagues to join him in looking for alternative sources of revenue that could be earmarked exclusively to the support Michigan's libraries, museums and cultural activities.

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